

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

Please refer to the latest issue of THE NATION for a comprehensive chart detailing just how limited media ownership has become. A situation already exists of mega-mergers being fiscally necessary since a media company's competitors are so huge. (If you want to see this phenomenon in another industry, please check out the grocery mega-mergers of recent years.)

To glibly assume that people can get their info wherever they want because of cable and the Internet ignores two basic facts: these mega-companies own a majority of cable and Internet outlets and, just as important, not everyone has / can afford cable or Internet access.

An uninformed public is probably in the best interests of a mega corporation and a government, but it is wrong.

Use your authority to at least leave a smidgen of access for the have nots.